

A

Strange and VVonderfull  
RELATION  
Of a Flight of  
Pismires ,

That fell in the Town of Lichfield,  
and about the City of Coventrey.

WITH  
The manner of their appearance in  
the Air; And their settling in the Town: At-  
tested by several credible *Witnesses*.

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Licensed according to Order.

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LONDON,  
Printed for E. H. M DCLXIX.

A

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THEATRE

in English

Promises

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The curtain rises at the beginning of the second act.  
A scene in which the King of France  
receives his son from the Queen.

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LONDON

Printed for H. MDCCLXIX

and I looke for alredy more mischance to come  


## A

Strange and VVonderful Relation  
 OF  
*A Flight of Pismires, &c.*

**T**HERE are two things which are in this, as all former Ages, worthy of the severest reproof, and they are *Credulity*, or a too light and easie belief on the one hand ; and *Incredulity*, when men will not acknowledg or assent unto what is reasonably inferred ; and this latter too frequently befalls *Wise men*, though as *absurd* as the apprehensions of *Fools*, and the credulity of the people which promiscuously swallow any thing. We are not intending to obtrude upon the World any far-fetcht Forraign matter, which a man had much better to believe than to go to prove or to beg

beg your compassion from some Poetical Metamorphosis, but briefly & in the words of truth to give you the Relation of some few matters which have by the Attestation of many Credible Witnesses, hapned here within our own World since the later end of July last. The things indeed some of them for their matter and circumstance so strange and unheard-of, that I have not met with a Parallell in any Ancient or Modern Inquirer into the strange Accidents of present or past Times.

In the Town of Lichfield in Staffordshire, a place of remark, in its being a Bishops See, on the one and thirtieth day of July last, being Saturday, between the hours of twelve and one a clock, in the time of a full Market, (that being a market-day there) on a sudden there appeared an innumerable Swarm of Pismires or Ants with wings, which by their close keeping in a body, therewith and with their wings clouded and made dark the Skye; So many of them settled together in the Market-Place, and in several other Streets and Houses, that the ground was covered, and the market-

market people so annoyed, that they were forced to break up and be gone sooner by far than they used to do; for by *Three of the Clock in the Afternoon* the whole Market was dissolved: both People and Horses so grievously stung and tormented therewith, that they were forced to make what escape they could from them: Some Horses through the torment of their stinging ran up and down more like wilde Creatures, than such as had been accustomed to the Saddle or burdens. Several of the Workmen that were employed about the repair of *Lichfield Minster*, were stung with them: And the People that were at Harvest Work in the Fields, were forced to leave their businesse. After their continuance in this manner for three or four hours, or more, many of them fell down dead both in the Streets and Houses, but especially in the Streets, in such prodigious quantities, that the Horses Hoofs were covered over treading among them: and not much less number in the houses, so that the People were compelled to sweep them out together; which being by that means brought together, made several heaps of them, so the bignesse of a bushell

basket of Corn or larger; They were judged by severall of those that saw them, to have come out of the East. At length, the living remainder of them, which was not small, took their Flight to the Towns-end towards the North, where dividing themselves as it were, into two bodies, they parced, some of them flying one way, some another: yet notwithstanding left both their terror and marks behind them among the People, who at the strangenesse of the Prodigy were so much affrighted, that they knew not what to say or do, but very much admired the strangenesse of the thing. These *Pismires* or *Ants* were not like those that are commonly found in Mole-hills, but a great deal bigger; they were judged to be about the bignesse of a Spider.

The like thing about the same time happened (with some small varying circumstances) about the City of Coventry in Warwick-shire, twenty miles from Lichfield, where multitudes of them fell, and in several other places; but we need not run over the Particulars anew, to trouble the Reader twice with one thing.

This

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This is the substance of what is received from persons of Eminency and Reputation, of whom Mr. Archbold, Register, is one, Mr. Boylston an Apothecary; Mr. John Rawlins, Town-Clerk; Mr. Samuel Markland, one of His Majesties Servants, and Mr. James Rixam, all Eye-witnesses thereof, besides many more, which would be too tedious here to mention.

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F I N I S.

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(2)

This is the signature of Mr. H. C. C. of  
Belgrave & Elmbridge and Rector of St. John's  
with Addington Rectory, in one Mr. B. G.  
Abraham, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. C. H.  
Mr. Samuel Ward, one of His Majesty's  
Surveyors, and Mr. James Evans, the  
Architectural Painter, who probably  
lived near the monument.

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